

Annual General Meeting—5th March

2020 18:30

**Sleford Town Hall, Quayside
House, Navigation Yard, Sleford**

I'm going!

January 2020



UNISON Fights For The Housekeepers!






Housekeepers, the unsung heroes of the health service, are the latest group to receive a rough deal in ULHT.
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Also in this issue: - Transformation Monies and New Services At LPFT
- Breaking the Taboo of Trade Unionism
- Photo Pledge Competition - £20 Gift Vouchers To Be Won!

Need help?

Our email: lincshealthbranch@gmail.com

Our number: 07716558647 (office hours 9am –5pm, Mon-
day– Friday)

@LincsHealth 
lincs_health_unison 
Unison Lincolnshire 
Health Branch

Defending The Dignity of Housekeeping Staff

In the endless battle against infection, the housekeepers diligently trudge day and night through our hospitals, surgeries, waiting rooms and care homes, scouring every nook and cranny to eliminate dust, dirt and disease, keeping us safe from a deadly outbreak and making our workplaces much more pleasant places to work in. And where would we be, were it not for the housekeepers who “slave away” in our kitchens, canteens and cafeterias to fill the bellies of hungry staff, patients and visitors? If an army marches on its stomach, so too do the legions of healthcare workers.

These vital soldiers in the cause of better health are worthy of respect and yet in October last year, an undated letter was found (not given or explained) on the staffroom table at Pilgrim Hospital in Boston informing these workers there that from the 1st November they would be spending every other week working as auxiliary staff. The change has since been delayed—thanks to UNISON—but what this would mean is that housekeepers who for years have worked as kitchen staff might be forced to do cleaning duty, while cleaners might find themselves ladling soup at short notice.

Many of the housekeepers are at the older end of the workforce and fear this sudden change will have a determinantal effect on their physical and mental health. Our members cite serious concerns for the effect on their health of being compelled to do the often heavy work of cleaning and are worried

Transformation Monies and New Services At LPFT

Richard Holmes, LPFT Lead Convenor

Possibly most exciting news for LPFT currently is that they have been successful in gaining substantial new investment from NHS England. Lincolnshire has been identified as one of 12 ‘early implementer’ sites across the country for testing new models of care for those with mental health problems. With this comes around £8million over the next two years to radically redesign the Trust’s community mental health services.

This year will see a lot of exciting transformation projects and developments of services come to fruition as a consequence; staffs are really looking forward to seeing these improvements making an impact in Lincolnshire.

The Trust has also been successful in being awarded a joint contract with Lincolnshire Action Trust to provide a Liaison and Diversion Service for Lincolnshire.

Liaison and Diversion services identify people who have mental health, learning disability, substance misuse or other vulnerabilities when they first come into contact with the criminal justice system. The liaison and diversion service will aim to provide early screening, assessment and intervention services to all vulnerable people coming into contact with different parts of the criminal justice system.

they will be physically unable to complete their work. Likewise, the fast pace and public-facing aspect of working in a kitchen is a frightening prospect for some, especially those who suffer from anxiety. The change is causing a great deal of unnecessary stress and a significant number of housekeepers have said that they will leave if forced to comply with the order, which could create a serious problem for ULHT at a time when it is already struggling to fill vacancies across the Trust. UNISON is supporting our members in this matter and hope that by the end of January we will have reached a reasonable solution that preserves the dignity of our hard-working housekeepers and keeps the kitchens running smoothly and the corridors of our hospitals in great condition thanks to their tireless efforts.

Are Managers Ignoring Stress at work? USE DATIX!

Workplace stress is a health and safety issue. When informal discussions with line management fail to mitigate the problem, or stress risk assessments are not being used or followed, it may be appropriate to record the continued risk on the Datix system or the equivalent health and safety database in your workplace.



We Must Break The “Taboo” Of Trade Union Membership

Lincolnshire UNISON Health Branch Secretary, Liz Lowe



As we enter into the new year it’s prime time for us to reflect on the last 12 months and look forward to the future and what we can do to make the next 12 months better than the last.

One thing we all seem to struggle with as trade union members and activists is talking about being in a union. It is almost taboo and embarrassing to talk to friends and co-workers about being in a trade union, why it is important – and why they should join too!

This is one of the first things activists have to overcome, but I would ask every member to break that taboo and talk to you family, friends and co-workers about why you are in a union and UNISON in particular.

Being in a union is much more than just insurance in case something goes wrong at work. We are a collective of people ready to stand together and support each other. Every employee in this country has the right to join a trade union, and in turn amplify their voice and fight against low pay, poor conditions and mistreatment at work.

Every single employee in this country has the opportunity to benefit from the wide range of training, learning events, support and protection that trade union membership offers them.

The only barrier to them joining is, often, that no one has asked them to.

So my mission for you, in 2020, is to tell your friends, family and co-workers why you are in UNISON, and ask them to join a trade union too!

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/join-union>

Photo Pledge Competition - £20 Gift Vouchers To Be Won!

Prizes:

1x£20 voucher for each of the 5 sectors of the branch – ULHT, LPFT, NHSPS, LCHS and Private & Voluntary (P&V)

How to enter:

Take a photo with the pledge at the back of this newsletter – post it publicly on Facebook, twitter or Instagram with the hashtags #lincshealthAGM2020 and one of #ULHT #LPFT #LCHS #PandV

Alternatively you can email your pledge to lincshealthbranch@gmail.com including your full name, and which sector of the branch you work in. Please indicate if you would be happy for the branch to share your photo on social media.

Closing date for entries:

5pm on the 4th of March 2020

The Draw:

The winner for each area will be selected at random at the AGM – if the selected winner is not present another will be selected.

Thinking of becoming a rep?

Get in touch at: lincshealthbranch@gmail.com
We’ll put you in touch with your local Lead Rep, who can guide and help you to become a workplace representative.

Not a member yet?

You can get in touch with the Branch at 07716558647 and we can send you a membership form.

Or alternatively, you can join online at:
join.unison.org.uk

